Drainage augmentation scheme in Pune

817. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to approach the World Bank for drainage augmentation scheme in Pune; and

(b) if so, what is present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Self-sufficiency in mineral based metals

818. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a long-term strategy to acquire self-sufficiency in mineral based metals; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government are considering to allow foreign collaborations on product sharing basis in the production of copper, tin, lead and zinc; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to go in for massive Aluminium plants on product sharing basis in the foreign collaborations and if so, what are the details in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE): (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) Achievement of self-sufficiency in mineral based metals is dependent on the availability of adequate ore reserves amenable to economic exploitation. The long-term Govt. strategy to acquire self-sufficiency envisages development of mineral resources taking into account the national and strategic considerations and ensure their adequate supply and best use keeping in view the present needs and future requirements as spelt out in the National Mineral Policy (for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals). The development strategy for mineral based metals has been guided by the above objective.

The ore reserves established so far in respect of non-ferrous metals will enable achieve and maintain self-sufficiency in aluminium in view of the very large reserves of bauxite in the country. Self-sufficiency in Aluminium has already been achieved in 1989-90 and plans are being drawn up for maintaining self-sufficiency for this metal in the long-term. In respect of other major non-ferrous metals like copper, lead, zinc and nickel, ore resource endowment assessed is inadequate for achieving self-sufficiency. Ore reserves for tin and gold are poor. Priority has therefore been given for exploration for non-ferrous metals like zinc, lead, copper, tin and gold to augment the ore reserves.

(b) and (c) No Sir.

Allegation against Executive Director of Bokaro Steel Limited

819. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Executive Director of Bokaro Steel Limited chaired the Selection Board Meeting usually presided over by much lower rank officers;

(b) whether it is a fact that backward communities have been ignored for promotion and majority of the candidates selected for promotion belong to a particular community;

(c) whether it is also a fact that promotions made on the recommendations of the Executive Director in different categories were later on withdrawn after a call for agitation by labour organisations and

(d) if so, what punitive action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.